right of the people to get information has been affected.

News items captioned 'Basu Government May Sue Doordarshan'

2328. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI VISHWAS RAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news item published in 'Sunday Observer' of 4th June, 1989 under the caption 'Basu Government may sue Doordarshan' and if so, whether West Bengal as well Tamil Nadu Governments are voicing open criticism about Doordarshan's partial attitude; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and whether Government propose to take steps to convince various State Governments and the people about the impartial use of Doordarshan in presenting news?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A news item to this effect has come to the notice of the Government. In this news item, Doordarshan has been accused of partisan attitude because it has not telecast the advertisement of the West Bengal Government relating to the direct appeal for the donation to the Bakreswar Thermal Power Plant Fund. Similarly, Doordarshan has also refused to telecast an advertisement of Tamil Nadu Government relating to Co-optex Handlooms. The Government have already clarified to the West Bengal Government that such appeals are not in conformity with the established convention followed by the Media in this regard. Similarly, the Tamil Nadu Government has also been informed that the Co-optex Handlooms advertisement could not be telecast as it contained a visual of the Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu and as per the Code for Commercial Advertising, featuring of such dignitaries in the advertisements is violative of the Code.

The news bulletins of both AIR and Doordarshan are guided by 'News Policy for Broadcast Media'. As per these guidelines the only criterian to include any event in News Bulletins is its news worthiness. These guidelines are strictly followed by both the media.

Smuggling of sugar, khandsari and gur to neighbouring Countries

2329. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp increase in the smuggling of Sugar, Khandsari and Gur particularly to the neighbouring countries of Nepal and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, what is the estimated increase in the smuggling of sugar alongwith value thereof to Nepal and Bangladesh during the last six months;

(c) what are the areas from where sugar smuggling activities are being carried out;

(d) what measures have been taken by Government to check sugar smuggling; and

(e) to what extent the domestic prcies of sugar, Khandsari and Gur have increased as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Although there have been report especially after the expiry of the Indo-Nepal Treaty on Trade and Transit on 23rd March, 1989, about increase in smuggling of sugar, Khandsari and Gur from the border States to Nepal as also to Bangladesh, available reports and seizure made do not